JUDGMENT DAY 5

JUSTICE LEAGUE® TASK FORCE™

JUSTICE LEAGUE TASK FORCE
14
JUL 94

BY WAID, VELLUTO & ALBRECHT

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

OUT OF TIME!

HANNIGAN
Velluto
Albrecht

TIBET.

HERE'S THE STORY, PEOPLE. THE OVERMASTER DIDN'T TRAVEL THE STARS AND CAP MOUNT EVEREST JUST TO SCOTCH THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.

HE'S COME TO DESTROY THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE! IT'S OUR METAGENE THAT GIVES EARTHLINGS THE CAPACITY TO DEVELOP TRUE POWER...

...TO BECOME HEROES!

THEN LET'S ACT LIKE HEROES!

WE DIDN'T ASK PERMISSION TO DEFEND OUR WORLD--AND WE DON'T NEED PERMISSION TO TAKE DECISIVE ACTION AGAINST A WORLD-BEATER! WE PROTECT THE COMMON MAN!

IF WE UNLEASH OUR FURY DIRECTLY ON THE OVERMASTER WHILE HIS SHIPBOARD DEVICES PURGE THE PLANET, WE BETRAY THE WORLD'S TRUST!

BEETLE'S RIGHT! IT'S FOURTH AND GOAL... AND THE FATE OF THE WORLD RESTS ON THIS DRIVE.

THERE'S FIVE AND A HALF MILES OF MOUNTAIN BETWEEN US AND THE END OF THE WORLD...

LOOK, WONDER WOMAN--

...SO I'D SUGGEST WE GET A MOVE ON.

WE ALSO SERVE MANKIND, CAPTAIN! MANKIND'S VOICE--THE U.N.--REMINDED US THAT ACTION DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN COMBAT!

--I DON'T CARE IF IT'S A WHO OR A WHAT THAT GETS PUNCHED FIRST, SO LONG AS WE GET THE HELL UP THERE! WE'RE RACING THE CLOCK!

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PRESENT...

YOU HEARD THE MAN!

LOOK OUT, OVERMASTER--- HERE COMES THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!

JUDGMENT DAY PART FIVE

THE LONGEST YARD

WITH THANKS TO CO-PLOTTERS AND CO-CONSPIRATORS -- GERRY JONES AND DAN VADO.

NEARBY.

AND SO BEGINS THE FINAL CONFLICT, AS FORE-SEEN BY EARTH'S DOOM-SAYERS: MYSELF, WHO HAS WITNESSED ALL HISTORY THAT HAS PASSED... AND T.O. MORROW, WHO HAS GLIMPSED ALL HISTORY YET TO BE.

THAT I HAVE, SAVAGE... BUT HAVING CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS DOESN'T GUARANTEE AN UNDER-STANDING OF ITS PLAYERS.

FOR EXAMPLE... WHY HAS OUR NEW PARTNER CHOSEN TO FORSAKE HIS TEAM-MATES AND STAND INSTEAD WITH US?

BECAUSE BLOODWYND DARES NOT INTERFERE WITH THE HAND OF FATE. MY MAGICKS HAVE YET TO DETERMINE IF THE OVERMASTER IS A FORCE OF EVIL TO BE BATTLED... OR A FORCE OF NATURE TO BE EMBRACED.

ASK MORROW. HIS NOTES REVEAL ALL.

TELL US, THOMAS... HOW IS THE LEAGUE'S BATTLE PROGRESS-ING?

AS OF THIS MOMENT?

BIP

RIGHT ON SCHEDULE...

FINAL ASSAULT BEGINS

"AGAIN THEY COME.

"THIS PLANET'S WOULD-BE DEFENDERS MARCH EVER UPWARD, SEEKING TO THWART MY/OUR PLANS.

"NEVER IN MY/OUR TRAVELS HAVE I/WE SEEN A RACE SO FIXATED ON SALVATION... SO RESOLVED TO AVOID THE NATURAL ORDER THAT WILL, IN TIME..."

...CLAIM THEM ONE AND ALL.

STILL, I/WE HAVE LEARNED TO BE CAUTIOUS OF THESE SELF-STYLED HEROES. BLIND FAITH-- GATHER THE REST OF THE CADRE... AND SUMMON THEIR LEADER TO MY SIDE.

WITH PLEASURE, OVERMASTER. I SHALL GO FIND--

ICE!
DON'T YOU DARE TURN AWAY FROM US! NOT NOW! WE NEED YOU!
BUT I... I SERVE... THE OVER-MASTER...
NOT BY CHOICE! HIS POWER--IT'S CONTROLLING YOU!
...HIS MIGHT HAS CHANGED ME--BUT ONLY TO MAKE ME STRONGER! I AM NO LONGER THE TORA OF OLD!
THAT MUCH IS TRUE.
THE TORA I KNEW WOULDN'T SACRIFICE HER FRIENDS.
SOMETIMES...
...WHEN YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT, SOMETIMES I REMEMBER THE TORA YOU SPEAK OF.
TELL ME...TELL ME THAT SHE WAS STRONG ENOUGH ON HER OWN. TELL ME THAT SHE WOULDN'T--
THERE YOU ARE! SNAP TO, LADY! THE BOSS IS--
--SILENCE!
ZHWEEEEE
TORA...TORA, STOP.
THERE IS NO STOPPING. THE DIE IS CAST. NO MATTER WHO I ONCE WAS...
...THIS IS WHO I AM.
...TORA, COME BACK!
TORAAAA!
FFSSSs
6
7

BIP

FINAL ASSAULT BEGINS

OVERMASTER DISPATCHES CADRE

CAPTAIN-- AS FLIERS, CAN'T WE CARRY BEETLE AND GYPSY DIRECTLY UP?

TOO RISKY, J'ONN! BETWEEN THE WIND, THE NIGHT, AND THE BLIZZARD, WE'LL LOSE THE OTHER TEAMS FOR SURE!

THIS TIME, WE MUST STICK TOGETHER! BOOSTER-- HEAD COUNT?

DESPERO AND LIONHEART ARE RIGHT BEHIND ME, ATOM-- AND TO THE WEST, I STILL SEE THE GLOW OF RAY'S HEAT SHIELD!

"HIS TEAM'S DOING FINE!"

ELONGATED MAN-- IS SOMETHING WRONG?

CUH- COLD'S AFFECTING MY... ELASTICITY! C-CAN'T... REACH!

SSHWHIIPP

HERE.

NYAAARGH!

LET ME GIVE YOU A HAND UP!

STILL "CUH-COLD"?

LET HEATMONGER TAKE THE CHILL OFF! AH-HA-HA-HA!

FZZSSS

FFSSZZZ

I'LL GROUND GOLDEN EAGLE! FLASH--TAKE OUT BACKLASH!

SAID AND DONE! RAY! WATCH THE OTHERS!

RAY?

I CAN'T SEE ANYONE! POWER GIRL-- WHERE ARE YOU?!

OVER HERE, RAY! HURRY! I'M--

--IN A LOT OF TROUBLE!

FWAM

--UNNNGH!

FROM WHO? YOU LOSERS?

I DON'T THINK SO!

KA-BOOMM

RAY-- STAY HERE! SOMEONE MUST PROTECT THE FALLEN FROM THE COLD AND SNOW!

BUT--

NO ARGUMENTS! WE'LL COME BACK FOR YOU... IF WE CAN!

BIP

00:32:56

FINAL ASSAULT BEGINS

OVERMASTER DISPATCHES CA

EIRE BREAKS BONDS

DAMN YOU, OVERMASTER.

DAMN YOU FOR EARTH... DAMN YOU FOR TORA!

...OR...

...WILL IT?

THE 'CUFFS--THEY'VE MELTED?

STOP IT, BEA! KEEP A CLEAR HEAD! ANGER WON'T HELP YOU OUT OF THIS MESS...

INSIDE ME--SOMETHING FLICKERING! IS IT POSSIBLE...?

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT! TIME TO JOIN THE CAUSE--

--BEFORE TIME RUNS OUT!

KEEP LOCOMOTIN', FOLKS!

'TWEEN MAXIMA'S FORCE-SHIELD AND OL' METAMORPHO'S PHOSPHORUS-HEAT, WE GOT AN EASY HIKE AHEAD! EVERYONE STILL WITH US, MAX?

DR. LIGHT, AMAZING MAN AND TASMANIAN DEVIL WEATHER THE FROST WELL... BUT MAYA, SENECA AND OSIRIS NEED--

--PROTECTING--

--AAARGH!

THAT AXE--SLICIN' THRU THE SHIELD! WHO--?

I HOPE EVERY-ONE CAME... WELL-ARMED!

HOW SOON YOU FORGET THE DEVASTATOR, METAMORPHO! I'VE SO ANTICIPATED OUR FINAL CLASH!

MAX! MAX, WAKE UP! THEY'RE KILLIN' US--AND YOU'RE OUR ONLY PRAYER!

CAN'T... FOCUS...

YOU GOTTA, BABE! THIS STUNT'S ALL I GOT! I CAN SURROUND THESE CREEPS WITH AN UNSTABLE ELEMENT-- BUT THAT AIN'T ENOUGH TO BLAST 'EM UNCONSCIOUS!

YOU GOTTA HIT ME LIKE A MICROWAVE-- GIVE THESE MOLECULES O'MINE A TELEKINETIC PUSH!

THUMP

TAP THUMP

--ARE EXPEND-ABLE! F'R GOD'S SAKE-- DO IT!

HURRY! THEY'RE GETTIN' LOOSE!

BUT YOU--

"DO--"

BRAAAAAMMMM

BIP

00:17:12

FINAL ASSAULT BEGINS

ERMASTER DISPATCHES CA

FIRE BREAKS BONDS

METAMORPHO'S SACRIFIC

THAT EXPLOSION--!

MAXIMA'S GROUP! WE'VE GOT TO HELP THEM!

NOT NOW, CAP!

WE'VE GOT PROBLEMS OF OUR OWN!

AVALANCHE!

RRRMMMMMM

THAT'S IT, AZTEC! POUR ON THE POWER! OUR MASTER DEPENDS ON US!

WE ARE THE OVERMASTER'S LAST BASTION OF DEFENSE!

BWAM!

SO MUCH FOR THE CADRE! THAT CLEARS THE PATH--LET'S FINISH THE MARCH!

NO! GYPSY-- SHE'S BURIED! WE HAVE TO SEARCH--

THEN HE'S SCREWED!

DAMN IT, J'ONN-- EVERY MINUTE COUNTS! LET RAY FIND HER! IF WE DON'T GET TO THE OVERMASTER, SHE'S ALREADY DEAD-- AND NONE OF THIS MATTERS!

--GYPSY!

IT'S A HARD TRUTH, J'ONN--BUT BOOSTER'S RIGHT! THERE IS NO TIME!

WE HAVE TO GO! COME ON!

J'ONN...?

BIP

00:06:15

OVERMASTER DISPATCHES CADRE

RE BREAKS BONDS

METAMORPHO'S SACRIFICE

GYPSY BETRAYED

ATOM! GOT ANOTHER SURVIVOR HERE! YOU OKAY, PAL?

GROGGY... BUT WARM. MANAGED TO ABSORB METAMORPHO'S POWERS...

GOOD! WE'RE ALMOST TO THE TOP! WE'RE GONNA MAKE IT, PEOPLE!

WOOOSHOOMM

OVER MY DEAD BODY.

AT THIS POINT? WHATEVER IT TAKES, LADY...!

NO. I'LL HANDLE THIS.

J'ONN, THE CLOCK IS TICKING...

I REALIZE THAT, FLASH. BUT I MAY ALREADY HAVE LOST ONE FRIEND TODAY.

I WON'T LOSE ANOTHER.

SECONDS ARE PRECIOUS. WE HAVE NOT ONE TO WASTE. PLEASE, TORA.

THE NAME IS ICE.

THE HEART IS NOT.

IN ALL MY TRAVELS, YOURS IS THE MOST CARING, TENDER SOUL I HAVE EVER KNOWN.

THAT IS YOUR TRUE STRENGTH... AND WHATEVER DARKNESS HAS POSSESSED YOU CANNOT POSSIBLY OVERCOME THAT.

YOU... YOU SOUND SO SURE...

I HAVE TO BE. I'M GAMBLING THE LIVES OF FIVE BILLION PEOPLE ON IT.

OPPOSE US NOW... SQUANDER THEIR TIME WITH POINTLESS BATTLE... AND YOU CONDEMN THEM TO DEATH.

...I SEE. THE CHOICE IS MINE ALONE.

THEN LET US ALL DIE TOGETHER...

...UNLESS WE CAN STOP THE OVERMASTER!

FOLLOW ME!

FIRE BREARS BONDS

GYPSY BETRAYL

ICE FREED

I'M BACK, BEA. FOR GOOD--

--AND FOR ALWAYS!

WE'RE IN!

TORA! ARE YOU--?

YOU!

HOW DARE YOU QUESTION YOUR ALLEGIANCE? I/WE GAVE YOU THIS POWER!

AAARRGH!

ZHWEEEEE

THEN YOU--

--CAN TAKE IT BACK!

BIP
BREAKS BONDS
METAMORPHO'S SACRIFICE
GYPSY BETRAYED
ICE FREED
OVERMASTER DEFIED

NO LONGER WILL I BETRAY MY WORLD--OR MY FRIENDS! FROM THIS MOMENT ON, WE STAND AS ONE--AND WITH ONE GOAL!
WHEN AN EVIL LIKE YOURS THREATENS THE LIVES OF PEOPLE EVERYWHERE--THERE COMES A TIME FOR ACTION!
20

I SEE YOUR COUNTDOWN FAST APPROACHES ZERO.

HAVE WE SO LITTLE *MARGIN* UNTIL THE *END* OF THE *WORLD?*

THERE COMES A TIME--

--FOR JUSTICE!

END OF--?

OH, MY, NO. YOU *MISUNDERSTAND!* ARMAGEDDON IS STILL *MINUTES* AWAY! THIS COUNTDOWN--

--MARKS SOMETHING ELSE ALTOGETHER!

00:00:00

COUNT X

BIP

BRAVE WORDS.

FOOLISH SENTIMENT.

ZZZAKKK

AIEEEEEEE--

TORAAAAAA!

MEMNORTHO'S SACRIFICE

GYPSY BETRAYED

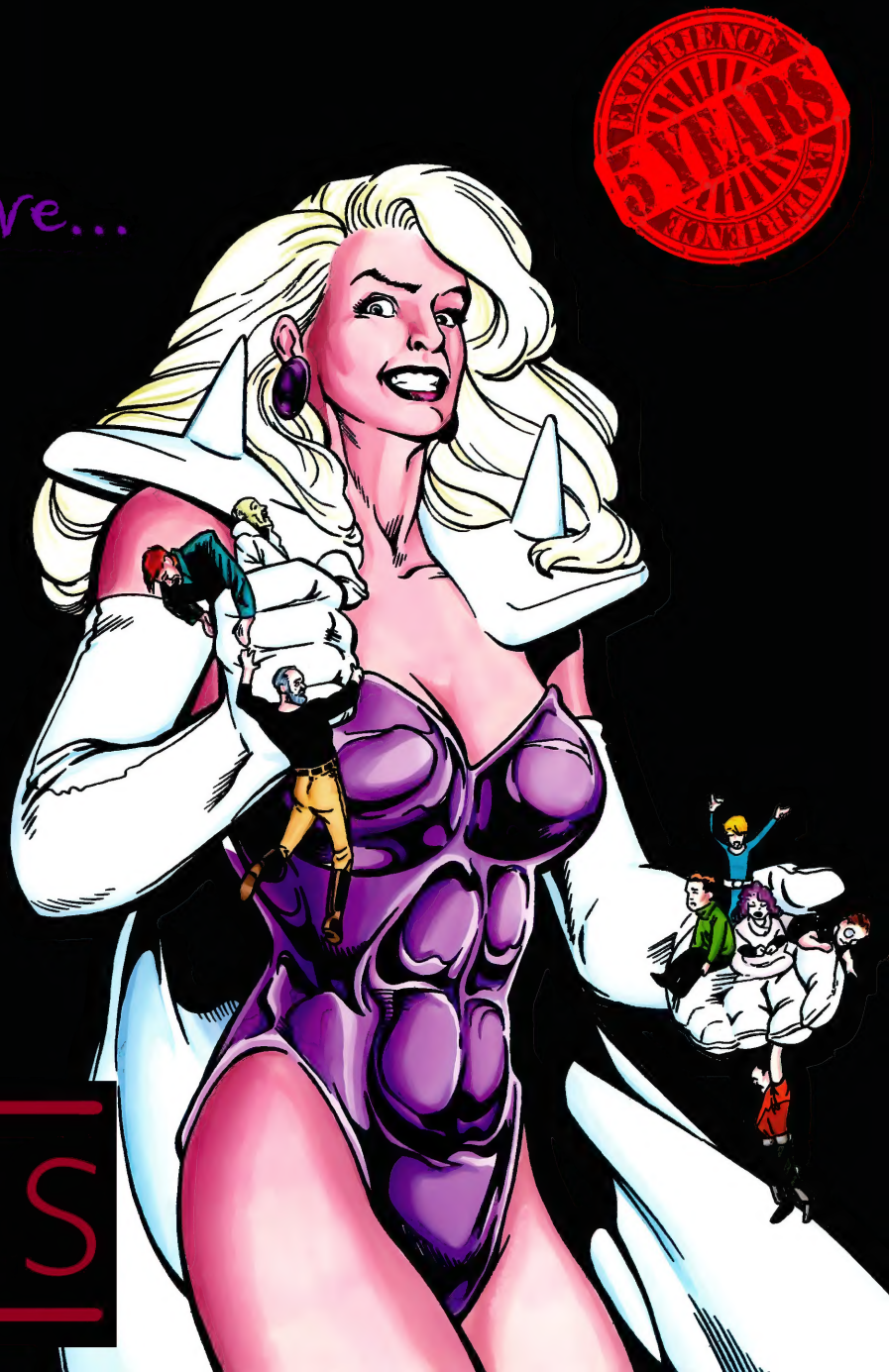
ICE FREED

OVERMASTER DEFIED

ICE DIES

CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK IN JUSTICE LEAGUE International #66!

From Baaldur, with love...



GLORITH

novus